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SUBJECT: JUNE 18 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: IRAN, SUB COLLISION, GREEN DAM, BUY CHINA

¶1. Key points at the June 18 MFA press briefing:

-- MFA Spokesman Qin Gang stated that China "respected the choice of the Iranian people" in recent elections.

-- Despite controversy over the "Green Dam" internet filtering software China had a responsibility to protect Chinese youth from "bad and violent things."

-- Asked why China omitted a question from the transcript of the June 16 press briefing about the June 11th collision between a Chinese submarine and a sonar array trailed by the destroyer USS John McCain, Qin asserted that the transcripts were "fully accurate and complete."

-- Asked why China had included "Buy China," clauses in a recent stimulus package after China criticized a similar such clause in the U.S., Qin said that China "rejected all forms of trade and investment protection."

-- China expressed its "strong disapproval" to the Asian Development Bank's approval of the India Country Strategy for 2009-2012 despite China's objection to the inclusion of some projects in Arunachal Pradesh and urged the ADB to "take measures to ameliorate the damage caused."

Iran Elections

¶2. In response to a question on the Iranian elections at the June 18 regularly scheduled press briefing, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said that China "respected the choice of the Iranian people."

Submarine Collision

¶3. Asked why the MFA omitted a question from the transcript of the June 16 press briefing about the June 11 collision between a Chinese submarine and a sonar array trailed by the destroyer USS John McCain, Qin asserted that the transcripts were "fully accurate and complete."

Green Dam Software

¶4. "Green Dam" internet filtering software had generated significant discussion in China and abroad, said Qin. Yet "no matter how many different opinions were expressed," China had a responsibility to protect Chinese youth from "bad and violent things." Qin urged reporters not to forget the government's responsibility to protect China's youth, and claimed that this was also international practice. Qin referred questions on the

"technicalities of the software," to the "competent authorities."

Buy China Rules included in New Stimulus Package

15. China "rejected all forms of trade and investment protection," said the spokesperson when asked why China had included "Buy China," clauses in a recent stimulus package after previously criticizing similar U.S. practices. The purpose of the new Chinese legislation was to maintain a fair market environment and was "in line with China's 2002 law on procurements."

Asian Development Bank India Strategy

16. China expressed its "strong disapproval" that the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) approved its India Country Strategy for 2009-2012 despite China's objection to the inclusion of projects in Arunachal Pradesh. The ADB operations would not change the ongoing territorial dispute between China and India. Qin said the ADB "should not interfere" in this matter, and urged the ADB to "take measures to ameliorate the damage caused." Qin also noted that as an "important member" of the ADB, China was willing to promote regional development, but always believed that bilateral negotiations should be used to solve China's border dispute with India.

2010 BRIC Summit

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17. China had committed to attending the next BRIC summit in Brazil in 2010, said Qin. Qin noted that at the BRIC summit June 16 in Yekaterinburg, Russia, the four countries exchanged views of global issues of concern, enhanced mutual trust and charted the future course of dialogue. Qin expressed China's willingness to work with the BRIC to "promote dialogue and cooperation of the four countries at a steady pace."

China-Russia Relations "Greatly Enhanced"

18. President Hu Jintao's June 18 state visit to Russia "greatly enhanced the bilateral strategic partnership," and deepened mutual trust and cooperation in trade and people to people exchanges, said the spokesperson. The visit "laid the foundation for future development of the two countries "strategic partnership." Qin noted that China was prepared to deepen cooperation with Russia to solve international problems and work toward the stability of the world financial system. Qin acknowledged that problems existed between the two countries, but said that the two countries had similar views on major international and regional issues, and that China was prepared to continue intensive discussion and cooperation to resolve existing differences.

Six-Party Talks

19. China had not changed its policy on the Six-Party Talks and would use "all peaceful means available" to solve the North Korean issue. China would "always promote that policy," said Qin.

No New Visits Planned to North Korea

10. The spokesperson had "no information to provide," regarding a reported planned trip by State Councilor Dai Bingguo to North Korea and China was willing "as always" to support the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Asked what "normal exchanges," China has had with North Korea since the second nuclear test, Qin said that China was willing to abide by good neighborly relations with North Korea and it was "in this spirit that China handled related issues."

Activities of Kim Jong-il Sons in China

¶11. Asked to confirm reports in Japanese media indicating that Kim Jong-il's son Kim Jong-un had recently visited Beijing and met with Hu Jintao and other leaders, and that Kim Jong-il's eldest son Kim Jong-nam had recently been in China, Qin responded, "the events reported in the relevant media did not take place."

Visits

¶12. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi will visit Canada from June 21-23. FM Yang will then travel to New York from June 24-26 to take part in UN meetings on the global economic crisis. Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva will visit to China from June 24-27. Vice Premier Li Keqiang will visit Turkmenistan, Finland and Uzbekistan June 23-29.

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